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REMARKS

By this paper, independent claim 1 has been amended and claims 3 and 18-39 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are pending.

In the outstanding Office action dated February 9, 2005, claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Marcade (5,683,449). Additionally, claims 3, 12, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marcade. In rejecting the claims, however, it does not appear that any consideration was given to the pre-fabricated holes recited in claim 3.

In response to the rejection to the claims, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a plurality of pre-fabricated holes, at least one pre-fabricated hole being in alignment with one radially extending component. One embodiment of the subject matter recited in amended claim 1 is depicted in Fig. 2 in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach pre-fabricated holes and as such, it is believed that each of the pending claims now recite patentable subject matter.

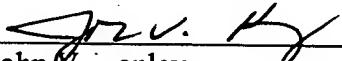
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CONCLUSION

Applicants ~~have~~ ^{are} requested to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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